

Appl. No. 10/800,747  
Amdmt. Dated October 6, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2006

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**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 25, line 27 and ending on page 26, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

More generally, any number of wavelength couplers such as the first wavelength coupler 66, the second wavelength coupler 76 and the third wavelength coupler 82 can be used in an optical amplifier provided by an embodiment of the invention depending on a desired number of optical amplification media segments used in the optical amplifier, and the number of wavelength channels to drop after each segment. In the example of Fig. 4, one wavelength channel is dropped after the first segment 70, two wavelength channels are dropped after the second segment 77, and a single wavelength channel goes on to be amplified by the last segment 83. In the example, two couplers ~~add-drop-multiplexers~~ 79, 80 are used to drop the two wavelengths after the second segment 77. This function may alternatively be achieved with a single couplers ~~add-drop-multiplexers~~. More generally, depending on a given application, different numbers of segments may be employed, with an appropriate number of wavelength channels (one or more) dropped after each segment. The invention is particularly suited for CWDM red band wavelengths. However, other embodiments of the invention may be adapted to handle other bands.